legislative intervention' on unorganised labour was organized on 7-8 November, 2002 by V.V. Giri National Labour Institute, which was attended by the representatives of trade unions, employees, State Governments and Central Ministries, NGOs and other social partners. The focus of the Seminar was to solicit the views of the social partners on the following issues:

(i) social protection for unorganised sector,

(ii) skill development and training, and

(iii) Umbrella legislation for unorganised sector workers.

Further, a tripartite meeting was also organized on 18th & 19th February, 2003 by V.V. Giri National Labour Institute to get the feed back from social partners including NGOs to improve the conditions of unorganised labourers.

Minimum wages

†2424. SHRI BASHISTHA NARAIN SINGH: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the provision of the minimum wages for men, women and minor labourers has been made under the Minimum Wages Act;

(b) if so, the reasons for the disparity in the wages in the States; and

(c) the steps being taken by Government to remove the disparity and to bring uniformity in the interest of the labourers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI VIJAY GOEL): (a) to (c) The Minimum Wages Act, 1948 does not discriminate between men and women in so far as fixation or revision of minimum wages are concerned. Women workers get the same wages as the men do. However different rates of minimum wages are fixed for children and adolescent labourer.

There is disparity in the minimum wages throughout the country due to variations in socio-economic and agro-climatic conditions, cost of living, productivity, paying capacity, local conditions etc.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

With a view to reduce disparity, the Central Government issued guidelines in 1987 for setting up Regional Minimum Wages Advisory Committees. These Committees have made a number of recommendations which include reduction in disparity in minimum wages of different states within a region, setting up inter-state Coordination Council, consultation with neighbouring States while fixing/ revising minimum wages etc. The Central Government also suggested to the State Governments in Februrary, 1999 for constitution of Committees of Officials from adjoining States in order to explore uniformity in minimum wages in the States within a region. The Central Government has mooted the concept of National Floor Level Wage also and has been requesting the State Governments to ensure that in none of the scheduled employments the minimum wage is below the national floor level wage. The floor level wage was fixed initially at Rs. 35/- in 1996. Thereafter it has been revised from time to time, the last revision being made to Rs. 50/-per day *w.e.f.* 1.9.2002.

Plan to check migration from villages

†2425. PROF. M. M. AGARWAL: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have formulated any national plan to check migration of people from villages to cities;

(b) whether Government have formulated any effective policy to reduce the increasing rate of unemployment in the villages;

(c) if so, whether Government have made any assessment of the increasing number of unemployed persons in the villages; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI VIJAY GOEL): (a) The Government has no specific plan to check the migration of people from villages to cities.

(b) The Special Group headed by Dr. S. P. Gupta, Member, Planning Commission was constituted to suggest strategy and programme for creation of one crore employment opportunities per year during each year of the 10th Plan period. The Group proposed creation of 5 crore

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.